

## Cultural Ecosystem Services: Inside the Black-Box of Natural Resource Management

Sponsored by Defra's Ecosystems Knowledge Network (EKN) and the University of Exeter's ESRC Centre for Sport, Leisure and Tourism Research (CSLTR)

Date	Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 July 2013
Convenors	Robert Fish and Michael Winter (University of Exeter) Andrew Church (University of Brighton)
Venue	XFI/Building 1: University of Exeter
Event contact	Anita Sedgewick: <a href="mailto:ekn@naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk">ekn@naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk</a>

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A two day event for environmental researchers, policy practitioners and project workers interested in learning and sharing ideas about cultural ecosystem services and its applications to different arenas and contexts of decision making.

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### Context

Understanding natural resource management in the context of culture presents an interesting test of the ambitions of an ecosystems approach to decision-making. The re-construction of culture as a class of 'ecosystem service' brings with it a range of theoretical conundrums about how the environment should be understood as an object of cultural concern. It also brings with it a range of operational complexities concerning how, and with what consequences, such 'services' would be animated and accounted for in real world decision-making.

### Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this event is to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in elaborating and scrutinising the idea of 'cultural ecosystem services' (CES) in the context of natural resource management processes. The event will explore experiences of working with this concept in a range of policy, practice and research contexts. Highlights will include exploring recent work conducted for the UK National Ecosystem Assessment follow on (NEAFO) in the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere. Specifically the event will:

- explore the history and intentions behind the emergence of the concept of CES and the different ways it has been applied in practice;
- critically inspect how CES reinforces or departs from other registers of work concerned with incorporating 'culture' in processes of natural resource management;
- provide overviews and critical evaluations of recent efforts to apply the concept of cultural ecosystem services to theoretical and practical concerns.
- examine barriers and obstacles to operationalising CES in decision making about marine and terrestrial habitats;

- explore and develop opportunities for further collaboration in the area of cultural ecosystem services between researchers and practitioners.

The event will combine oral presentations with group-based discussions. See **Outline Agenda** below. There will also be a reception where participants can display their work as posters (e.g. as AO displays). Overall the event is designed to be both summative and exploratory in approach.

We are really keen that all participants share their ideas, views and experiences on CES. Areas of contribution may, for instance, include critical or practical treatment of:

- mapping and modelling CES;
- exploring ecosystem services through creative practice;
- CES and community engagement;
- biodiversity management, conservation and CES;
- CES and landscape heritage;
- access to, and benefit sharing of, CES;
- developing indicators for CES;
- economic valuation of CES; and
- models of decision making for CES.

If you are interested in participating in this event please contact Anita Sedgewick, Project Officer at the Ecosystems Knowledge Network by providing:

Either

- A title and a short summary for the topic or issue you would like to present on or make a poster about. *Presentations will be around 15-20 mins in length*

Or

- A statement indicating how this event will benefit you in your work.

We will do our best to accommodate all participants, both new and experienced, in this area but priority will be given to applicants wishing to make a presentation or poster contribution.

[ekn@naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk](mailto:ekn@naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk)

The deadline for registration for this event is **30<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Outline Agenda

## **Cultural Ecosystem Services: Inside the Black-Box of Natural Resource Management**

University of Exeter - Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 July 2013

### **Day 1**

10.00 Registration  
(with tea, coffee and pastries)

11.00 **Welcome and Introduction**  
Robert Fish (University of Exeter)

11.15 **Cultural ecosystem services: histories, concepts and applications**  
Andrew Church (University of Brighton)  
*Followed by panel discussion*  
Chair: Michael Winter (University of Exeter)

12.30 *Buffet Lunch*

13.30 **Themed Presentations and discussion - Session 1**

15.30 *Tea, coffee and biscuits*

16.00 **Cultural Ecosystem Services: A case study of nature Improvement in the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere**

*The North Devon Biosphere: 10 years of sustainable development*  
Michael Winter, (University of Exeter)

*Insights from the NEA Biosphere case study*  
Robert Fish and Cheryl Willis (University of Exeter)  
Fiona Fraser Smith (Beaford Arts)

17.30 **Poster session and drinks reception**

### **DAY 2**

9.00 **Themed Presentations and discussion - Session 2**

11.00 *Tea, coffee and pastries*

11.30 **Themed exploratory workshops – CES into practice**  
*To include.*

- *Exploring an arts and humanities perspective to CES*
- *Developing Indicators for CES*
- *Linking CES to biodiversity management*

13.00 *Buffet Lunch*

14.00 **Cultural Ecosystem Services: developing collaborations and taking the agenda forward**

Facilitated discussions between researchers and practitioner to elaborate new project collaborations

15.15 *Tea/coffee break*

15.30 **Round up and final remarks**

Rob Fish, Andrew Church, Michael Winter

16.00 Close